

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm

Issued Monthly

2202 Monterey St. Suite 104-F
Fresno, CA 93721

Phone: 559-487-5178 FAX: 559-487-5199

Federal Market News Service

21 North 1st Ave., Suite 224

Yakima, WA 98902

Phone: 509-575-2494 FAX: 509-457-7132

Number 4

For subscription information, please call 1-800-487-8796

Tuesday, May 07, 2002

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2002

IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

ARKANSAS	- Soybean, extra light amber, 65 - 73¢ (lower price paid on previous contract)
CALIFORNIA	- Alfalfa/Buckwheat, extra light & light amber, 80¢ - Mixed Flowers, light amber, 68¢ - Orange, white, 85¢ - Orange, light amber, 72¢
COLORADO	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, 72¢
FLORIDA	- Orange, extra light amber, 75¢ - Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, 72¢
NEW CROP...	- Orange, white, 90¢ - Gallberry, white, 85¢
IDAHO	- Alfalfa, white, 72¢ (small lot) - Alfalfa, extra light amber, 70¢ - Alfalfa, light amber, 62¢ (small lot) - Alfalfa, dark amber, 45¢ (small lot)
MONTANA	- Clover, white, 85 - 98¢
NORTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, 85¢
OHIO	- Clover, white, 74¢
OREGON	- Floral Source not reported, light amber, 82¢
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, 87¢
UTAH	- Clover, white, 76¢
WASHINGTON	- Mixed Flowers, white, 90¢ (small lot) - Mixed Flowers, amber, 85¢ (small lot)
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, 95¢

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Province & floral source not reported, white, 95.7¢

Province & floral source not reported, extra light & light amber, 93¢

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....	CHILE	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.05
	INDIA	- Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.03
	URUGUAY	- Mixed Flowers, extra light & light amber, 88 - 90¢
	VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 75 - 81¢
WEST COAST.....	CHINA	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, 72¢
	MEXICO	- Mesquite, white, 83¢ (new crop)
	VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, light amber, 73 - 75¢ (new crop)

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING APRIL

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) - - -

April showers greeted this drought stricken area throughout the month and although subsoil moisture levels are still way below normal, topsoils are in good condition and this moisture helped boost a great April bloom period. Temperatures fluctuated between abnormal highs to a couple of freezing nights; however, bees were able to forage. Beekeepers report good nectar gathering occurring in the early weeks of April due to this longer bloom period of spring flowering trees, shrubs and plants (dandelion and yellow rocket). Normally this period is short and the bees are not able to gather substantial nectar from these plants. The bees are very healthy and heavy swarming has already occurred. More is predicted. The normal swarm period for the District is May and June. Although a few beekeepers in the North and West part of the VA experienced some losses due to the fall drought (27-33%), these folks have been able to replace these bees readily from local and other suppliers. Currently, the lower District is seeing their main spring honey flow from tulip poplar and black locust, while beekeepers in MD and PA are still waiting for these trees to bloom, which should occur in the upcoming weeks. Late variety apples in PA are in past full bloom (near petal fall stage) at this writing. Beekeepers report good pollination in orchards despite the varied weather patterns.

CALIFORNIA - - -

Northern California started the month with near record high temperatures while the south was cool with a few showers falling along the coast. By the 7th, the weather system was moving south and temperatures began to rise. A daily-record high of 107 degrees was recorded in Death Valley with many other parts of the state getting into the 90's. Conditions changed again with a few showers reported along the northern coast and a daily-record low of 37 degrees in Sacramento on the 18th. The heaviest precipitation came on the 16th & 17th with heavy snow in the northern mountains. The month ended with a series of weather systems that brought light rain and cool temperatures to the northern half of the state and fairly normal conditions to the south.

The bees are reported to be in fairly good condition but some winter losses have been noted. Stronger colonies will be divided. A fairly good orange crop is expected but the unusual weather is hampering a good flow in the sage and buckwheat. Some other colonies were moved into the onion and melon fields for pollination.

CALIFORNIA continued...

Packers report they are only being offered small amounts of honey despite higher prices. Canada has banned Chinese honey & domestic producers are holding for more money, creating a very unsettled honey market.

COLORADO - - -

Colorado continues to experience severe drought conditions for most of the state. River basins throughout the state range anywhere from 13% to 46% of normal. Temperatures remained about normal for most the month. Most migratory colonies have returned from California and are currently in holding yards. Beekeepers are supplementary feeding their colonies because of the dry conditions that have slowed the spring blooms of wild flowers and alfalfa throughout the state. Some beekeepers will be moving their colonies to other states during the summer such as North Dakota because of the water restrictions being implemented this summer. With the mountains also facing the drought conditions, many beekeepers are fearing the threat of destruction from bears.

GEORGIA - - -

Colonies around the state were generally in good condition. The spring buildup and development progressed well during April. Bees were able to work abundant pollen and nectar sources during the month. Colonies were able to build up brood rapidly. In the southern half of the state, bees worked off blackgum, tulip poplar, titi and other miscellaneous floral sources. Gallberry, one of the state's major honey flow, is due to begin shortly. In the central half of the state, bees were working primarily off blackberry towards the end of April. Little activity has been noted in the mountains of north Georgia.

IDAHO - - -

Some migratory hives are still in California and are waiting for warmer temperatures in Idaho to return. Migratory hives that went to Washington for the apple pollination should be returning around mid May. Overall movement of honey was slow.

ILLINOIS - - -

The weather for the month of April varied dramatically as highs were generally ranged in the high 40's to mid-60's. In the northern area of the state, temperatures were combined with high winds. Unseasonably high temperatures were reported in southern and parts of central Illinois with new record highs of 83 on the 15th and 87 on the 17th. Generally, highs in central and southern parts of the state were in the 60's and 70's by month's end. The northern section had generally normal temperature for the period. The abundance of rainfall caused high river levels with northern Illinois experiencing the worst flooding. Honeybees in northern sections were working mostly dandelions due to cool weather while the central and southern areas reported red bud, dogwood, wild cherry and honey locust were in full bloom.

Honey sales at the retail level were reported good.

INDIANA - - -

The main activities of beekeepers was moving and preparing hives for moving into orchards. Overwintering kill has been very light due to the mild winter. Some beekeepers were adding packages, while others had calls of bees swarming. Indiana was again requiring packages and colonies coming into the state from infected areas be inspected before entering. Honeybees had a rapid spring buildup due to the red bud, dandelion, wild cherry and dogwood bloom. Temperatures were mostly near or above normal with several areas reporting record or near record temperatures.

Bulk honey movement has been slow but retail sales were very good.

MISSISSIPPI - - -

Colonies around the state were generally in good condition. The spring buildup and development progressed well during April. The spring honey flow in south Mississippi continued into April with favorable results. Bees were able to work off blackgum, highbush gallberry, privet hedge, and other miscellaneous nectar sources. Some producers were extracting honey prior to the lowbush gallberry flow that is about to start. Soil moisture levels are very low in the area and honey producers are concerned that the flow and yields will be affected. Colonies in the northern portions of the state worked favorable yields from white clover, rattan vine, and tulip poplar during April. Soil moisture levels are spotty around the area.

MISSOURI & IOWA - - -

Precipitation was slightly above normal in Missouri. Iowa was in need of rain until the 29th of April. The weather has been cool in both Missouri and Iowa. The colonies in Missouri are in excellent condition while in Iowa only a very few have been seen. Missouri Apple Pollination is now finished while there is some pollination in blueberries. In Iowa no pollination has begun. It is projected to be a great year for bees in both states.

MONTANA - - -

The first week of April was very cold across the state. April 2nd lows plunged to minus 4 degrees in Great Falls and minus 2 degrees in Cutbank. Eleven days later, Billings set a record when they climbed to 78 degrees. The rest of the state saw temperatures more seasonal with highs in the 60's and low 70's. Around the 15th. A low pressure system again brought below normal temperatures and late season snow. Billings accumulated over 14" from the 15th to the 18th. During the proceeding 196 days, Billings' precipitation totaled just 2.33" (37% of normal). A week later, record lows were again recorded in Great Falls when they dropped to 17 degrees and Glasgow was 15 degrees. The end of April, topsoil moisture was rated at 26% very short and 39% short which is worse than last year at this time.

Beekeepers that start with new packages each spring reported their bees are in pretty good condition but warmer weather would be beneficial. Colonies have been checked and fed regularly because March and April were colder than January and February and floral sources haven't been available. Migratory colonies remained in Washington State for apple pollination.

NORTH CAROLINA - - -

The western part of the state has received some rain, however, other areas of the state have not been so fortunate. The drought conditions continue, with some areas trying to bank water in reservoirs for summer demand. There is a concern that the extended drought could hurt plants in ways that are going unnoticed. Due to the warmer temperatures, North Carolina has experienced an early spring. The bees have been working Blueberries and are now moving on to the Gallberry in the coastal and eastern part of the state. In the western part of the state the tulip poplar is in bloom. The overall conditions of the bees are good, with beekeepers being encouraged to check mite levels in their colonies.

OREGON - - -

The first week of April was warm and dry across the state. Temperatures ranged from 5-9 degrees above normal while precipitation along the coast was as much as 1.5" below normal. The warm temperatures continued for another week but precipitation varied. Along the coast, rainfall ranged from .38-2.40" above normal. The last half of April was unseasonably cool and precipitation ranged from nearly 1" below normal in Southwest Oregon with lows dipping below freezing.

The bees are reported to be in fairly good condition, gaining strength and size. Beekeepers were keeping a close watch on their colonies, occasionally adding new queens. By the end of April, hives were being removed from some cherry and pear orchards while some were just being put in at higher elevations. Blueberries and

OREGON - - - continued...

blackberries were still blooming the end of the month in the Willamette Valley along with apples in Hood River. Pollination was sometimes hampered by windy conditions. Because of the cool weather the last half of April, the bloom period is lasting much longer than usual and in some cases, bees are being returned to their own holding yards where they are fed before being placed in another crop. After some crops have been pollinated, colonies will be set in summer locations where their first floral sources will be wild blackberries, poison oak and chittum. The crimson clover and maple bloom is running as much as three week behind. Acreage of crimson clover has been declining because of low prices.

UTAH - - -

Wholesale and retail honey sales were very slow this last month. Some contributing factors is the tariffs and quotas placed on China has taken them out of the market. Domestic asking prices for honey are higher due to the short supplies after many areas short honey crop last year and the uncertainty of Argentina's money situation as a global market supplier.

WASHINGTON - - -

Spring arrived in Western Washington the first of April but cold, windy conditions were reported across the eastern half of the state. Heavy rains and wind halted a lot of fieldwork across the state through the middle of the month. Temperatures were as much as 6 degrees below normal. The adverse weather conditions continued through the end of April except for a scattering of nice, warm days towards the end of the month. Hail and snow were reported in Western Washington on the 23rd and temperatures in Eastern Washington dropped into the 20's.

Many crops, such as tulips and some vegetable crops are running two weeks behind normal because of the cold weather. Apples were just beginning to bloom the end of the month. While there were numerous trees and flowers blooming, the cold, cloudy conditions kept the bees in their hives and many producers were adding sugar syrup.

Beekeepers in Eastern Washington were busy bringing their colonies home from the California almonds and putting them into the apples, pears, soft fruit and cherries for pollination. By the end of April, bees were being removed from fruit orchards where growers were pleased with the pollination despite the weather. Some were then fed and are waiting for better weather in Montana, North and South Dakota where they will be taken next. The biggest concern this spring is a new insecticide that is being put on pears during bloom. The Washington State Department of Agriculture has already received several complaints from beekeepers in the Yakima and Wenatchee Valleys who have lost hundreds of colonies. The problem occurs when the spray is put on flower buds and drifts from pear to cherry orchards. Some beekeepers heard about the problem and warned growers not to spray which likely saved many bees. Initial tests showed bees weren't affected 3-5 days after application but there are not reports of losses up to 6 days later. A change in labeling is being discussed.

Because of some problems with shipments of queens and packages, one beekeeping association took orders and drove to Northern California and picked them.

WISCONSIN - - -

The temperatures for the month of April were moderate with the exception of the northern section that reported snowfall of 20 inches. Most areas had record or near record high temperatures at mid-month. Some beekeepers reported bees in the southern region had built up stores rapidly.

Precipitation for the month was more than enough to provide nectar flow for the honeybees to work.

The State Apiary Inspector reported estimates of overwintering kill are expected to be low due to a mild winter and beekeepers treating their bees. Beekeepers inspecting hives early in the month had reported hives were very strong after winter.

Demand for package bees has been good.

Honey and wax sales were slow while retail sales were reported good.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	FEBRUARY 2002		YEAR TO DATE 2002	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
HONEY, NATURAL, PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Netherlands	---	---	1,043	3,124
Germany	---	---	8,001	17,640
Saudi Arabia	61,101	103,120	71,029	121,421
Arab Emirates	17,217	48,120	17,217	48,120
Yemen	26,672	82,320	40,008	123,480
Pakistan	16,850	16,652	16,850	16,652
Philippines	14,289	28,825	39,275	79,977
Taiwan	---	---	4,150	6,892
Japan	21,845	58,069	23,570	61,133
TOTAL	157,974	337,106	221,143	478,439

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Canada	37,278	75,601	69,271	151,493
Costa Rica	2,449	4,860	2,449	4,860
Sweden	20,376	35,276	20,376	35,276
Germany	7,768	10,246	7,768	10,246
Singapore	15,240	44,100	18,510	47,706
Indonesia	---	---	18,688	48,832
Philippines	8,845	17,355	8,845	17,355
Korean Republic	2,300	9,364	2,300	9,364
Japan	37,581	67,645	38,581	67,645
TOTAL	129,537	255,083	183,788	392,777

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE				
Germany	10,839	10,246	10,839	10,246
TOTAL	10,839	10,246	10,839	10,246

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	FEBRUARY 2002			YEAR TO DATE 2002		
	QUANTITY	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.	QUANTITY	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.
	kilograms	VALUE	VALUE	kilograms	VALUE	VALUE
		dollars	dollars		dollars	dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- WHITE						
Canada	1,629,135	2,611,492	2,628,262	2,598,157	4,185,000	4,211,781
Mexico	---	---	---	19,430	30,664	31,985
Chile	134,816	193,457	203,212	172,142	247,174	261,096
Brazil	39,228	47,580	50,714	39,228	47,580	50,714
Argentina	60,594	63,239	67,954	100,359	105,837	115,371
Thailand	295,800	365,075	396,500	769,080	927,763	1,000,158
China, Mainland	352,544	362,321	391,218	1,023,024	1,057,766	1,151,815
TOTAL	2,512,117	3,643,164	3,737,860	4,721,420	6,601,784	6,822,920

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	FEBRUARY 2002			YEAR TO DATE 2002		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER						
Canada	140,307	218,243	219,767	161,649	248,116	249,731
Mexico	56,450	73,082	75,920	205,244	281,474	291,029
Chile	19,137	26,218	26,643	19,137	26,218	26,643
Brazil	---	---	---	19,200	25,775	26,350
Uruguay	154,402	211,975	218,427	193,617	266,093	273,685
Argentina	---	---	---	20,152	21,590	24,032
Thailand	374,680	439,805	491,258	1,222,640	1,432,765	1,573,346
Vietnam	439,640	491,777	520,098	817,800	911,137	973,185
China	432,400	429,535	474,444	728,700	731,592	807,859
TOTAL	1,617,016	1,890,635	2,026,557	3,388,139	3,944,760	4,245,860
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER						
Canada	19,334	32,493	32,976	37,499	60,125	60,658
Mexico	784,608	987,613	1,029,472	1,212,945	1,464,133	1,524,804
Peru	---	---	---	18,000	23,599	25,399
Brazil	99,716	134,130	144,079	245,532	306,005	331,730
Uruguay	790,402	1,066,272	1,105,642	961,015	1,289,526	1,341,164
France	411	2,031	2,212	411	2,031	2,212
Germany	10,142	21,179	21,679	10,142	21,179	21,679
Romania	---	---	---	19,000	24,514	24,516
Bulgaria	---	---	---	20,233	26,424	26,426
Thailand	118,320	142,098	154,658	359,448	428,960	451,266
Vietnam	38,200	41,712	44,689	431,360	452,682	496,708
China	1,000,065	958,386	1,037,571	1,490,728	1,442,737	1,565,625
Taiwan	---	---	---	2,700	5,615	5,923
TOTAL	3,197,840	3,792,244	4,001,993	5,145,575	5,953,860	6,307,125
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED						
Canada	39,811	59,854	60,039	134,031	180,017	181,160
Mexico	18,620	26,088	28,588	83,005	110,134	119,234
Brazil	20,014	23,844	26,819	77,800	93,909	103,305
Argentina	---	---	---	96,428	104,440	108,976
France	602	5,830	7,080	602	5,830	7,080
Italy	487	2,680	2,682	15,487	13,370	14,372
Thailand	---	---	---	19,720	26,961	44,214
China	39,440	32,862	37,922	39,440	32,862	37,922
Taiwan	1,760	7,269	7,542	2,486	10,379	10,757
Australia	177,480	213,244	227,266	177,480	213,244	227,266
TOTAL	298,284	371,671	397,938	646,479	791,146	854,286

2000 HONEY LOAN SUMMARY REPORT - AS OF TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2002

DATA IN THIS REPORT ARE IN POUNDS-USDA, Price Support Division, Farm Services Agency

L O A N S M A D E				L O A N S O U T S T A N D I N G		
State	Count	Quantity O r i g i n a l	Amount	Count	Quantity O u t s t a n d i n g	Amount
AL	9	235,920.00	\$153,348.00			
AZ	9	661,670.00	\$430,085.50			
AR	26	2,467,587.00	\$1,603,931.55	1		
CA	137	6,075,405.00	\$3,949,013.25	11	56,270.00	\$36,575.50
CO	18	624,529.00	\$405,943.85	2	20,800.00	\$13,520.00
FL	37	1,479,033.00	\$961,371.45			
GA	4	58,153.00	\$37,799.45			
ID	49	1,801,033.00	\$1,170,671.45	1		
IA	24	1,418,061.00	\$921,739.65			
KS	12	397,010.00	\$258,056.50			
LA	12	269,193.00	\$174,975.45			
MI	34	1,037,127.00	\$674,132.55	2		
MN	32	1,496,731.00	\$971,225.15			
MS	9	234,670.00	\$152,535.50			
MO	4	63,130.00	\$41,034.50			
MT	36	2,610,912.00	\$1,689,530.63			
NE	26	1,646,439.00	\$1,070,185.35	1	2,250.00	\$1,462.50
NJ	2	116,977.00	\$76,035.05			
NM	1	22,500.00	\$14,625.00			
NY	34	997,260.00	\$648,219.00			
NC	6	49,411.00	\$32,117.15			
ND	112	8,599,271.00	\$5,586,160.15			
OK	1	3,000.00	\$1,950.00			
OR	18	916,093.00	\$595,460.45			
PA	7	76,520.00	\$49,738.00			
SC	2	25,681.00	\$16,692.65			
SD	114	13,715,284.00	\$8,914,934.60			
TX	48	3,378,844.00	\$2,196,248.60			
UT	14	363,405.00	\$235,777.65			
VT	2	14,120.00	\$9,178.00			
VA	1	24,375.00	\$15,843.75			
WA	38	1,135,351.00	\$737,978.15			
WI	19	1,967,660.00	\$1,278,979.00			
TOTAL	897	53,982,355.00	\$35,075,516.98	18	79,320.00	\$51,558.00